

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# WWII WebQuest: Life on the Homefront

## Introduction

Welcome, to the 1940s. The U.S. has entered World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Many people you know are overseas fighting in the war. You are a teenager still at home with your family, and you have to help your mother take care of them. Even though you are not fighting overseas, you are still part of the war effort on the American homefront. When the U.S. entered the war, your life changed. What could you do to help at home? What sacrifices were you going to have to make for your country and your family?

This WebQuest will take you on a journey to the homefront of WWII to learn about what life was like for Americans during this turbulent time in history. During this lesson, you will look at roles of women and what they did for their families and for their country, what children/teenagers did to contribute to the war effort, the implications of women in the workplace, and the sacrifices that Japanese-Americans had to make after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

## Task

You will examine different websites throughout this lesson, which will guide you in your search for completing this assignment. The main goal is to find out what life was typically like for Americans during WWII. Your task will be to answer the questions provided.

## Process

1) Take a look at the [fads, music and radio, television, theatre and film, fashion](#), or any other section you are interested in. You might also like to see what [toys](#) children played with in the 1940s. **Describe the atmosphere of the 1940s based on this information.**

2) During WWII, [blackouts](#) were conducted throughout the United States. Read about blackouts, then take a look at a [poster](#) warning about a blackout. **What were blackouts, and why were they implemented?**

3) Letters were a way families could keep in touch with family members overseas. You must read two [letters](#) written by U.S. Soldiers, but you may look at more if you wish. **What do these letters tell you about life at home (and at war) during the 1940s?**

4) During the war, women worked in factories, volunteered, etc. Because most of the men were overseas, women took on jobs typically considered only for men. Many women went from being housewives to being factory workers. Browse [Rosie the Riveter's website](#). First, take a look at the History (click on History). Next, click on Women's Stories and read about a couple. Finally, click on Women's Photos. **How did women contribute to the war effort? How do you think people felt about women in the workforce?**

5) In addition to working, women had to take care of their families (sometimes alone). During WWII, food and clothes were rationed. Read about [rationing](#) and [victory gardens](#). Because of food rationing,

mothers (and civilians in general) had to come up with different meals to feed their families. Here are some recipes that might have been used on the homefront. Here is a little something extra you might find funny about women's [nylon stockings](#) which were rationed during WWII. **What was rationing, and why was it implemented? What were the effects of rationing?**

6) The war affected children and teenagers, as well. They contributed to the war effort just like everyone else by rationing, working in victory gardens, and recycling. In order to give you some background on the lives of teenagers and children, read about some [actual experiences of children and teens](#). Click on the General Childhood Experiences tab. Then, click on the Specific Childhood Experiences tab. **How did the lives of young people in the 1940s compare to your life today?**

7) You need to see where you and your family might have lived. While [touring the house](#), you will find more information about how young people contributed to the war effort. Be sure to look at the living room AND the kitchen and click on all of the colored pictures to read about them. **How did young people contribute to the war effort? How does this house compare to your house today? Think of the similarities and differences.**

8) While all Americans had to sacrifice to a degree during the war, Japanese-Americans were forced to sacrifice their freedom. Read through the following information to learn about [Japanese-American Internment Camps](#). **What was the purpose of the internment camps? How did people react to the camps? Do you think the United States was justified in relocating Japanese-Americans during WWII? Explain your answer.**

<u>Role</u>	<u>Audience</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Task</u>
All-American Girls Professional Baseball League	Baseball Fans	Baseball Trading Card	Create a baseball trading card for one of the girl baseball players from the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.
1943 Homemaker (wife)	American citizens	Newspaper Editorial	Write an editorial explaining why women should enter the workforce.
Propagandist	American citizens	Pamphlet/Brochure	Persuade the American public to join the war effort. Provide support and evidence for your brochure to persuade the American citizens to help in various ways.
Child/Teenager	Self	Diary/Journal	Write a journal entry about your feelings of the war. This might include how you feel about your mother going to work, father going to war, rationing, etc.
Japanese-American	Friend	Letter	Write a letter to a friend describing your life in an internment camp during WWII.